

Submission
No 355

**INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS
CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24/02/2012

Partially Confidential

email :

24 February 2012

The Committee Inquiring into Ethics Classes

Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Submission for the Committee Inquiring into Ethics Classes

Dear Sir/Madame,

We refer to the Committee Inquiring into Ethics Classes.

We have a daughter who attends [redacted], and is in year one this year. We note that Ethics classes are not provided for her at this early age, but are we very enthusiastic that we (and she) will have this option when she is older. She is intelligent and questions all around her and we think Ethics class will be very useful in the future. In particular we make the following points:

- While scrutiny of ethics classes is welcome we call for a parallel investigation of Scripture classes. We note Scripture classes have never been formally investigated since their introduction in the 19th Century. Recent research indicates that there is a need to investigate Scripture classes.
- If the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 were repealed, there would no longer be a legal requirement to offer ethics classes as an option for children not attending Scripture classes. This potentially could return schools to a situation in which children opting out of Scripture are given nothing meaningful to do. This will discriminate against those children opting out and would be entirely unacceptable to many parents, children and other members of the NSW community.

We strongly support the continuation of Ethics classes at [redacted] as an alternative to the Scripture Classes, that are currently both available. We wish that when our daughter is old enough to attend Ethics that we (and she) will have the option to make a choice for her to attend. If there are no ethics classes, and she does not wish to attend Scripture then she will potentially have nothing to do.

Yours Sincerely,